



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
West Coast Region
1201 NE Lloyd Blvd., Suite 1100
PORTLAND, OREGON 97232-1274

Refer to NMFS No: WCRO-2019-02002

August 7, 2019

Cheryl Probert
Forest Supervisor
Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest
903 Third Street
Kamiah, Idaho 83536

Lt. Col. Christian N. Dietz
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Walla Walla District
201 North Third Avenue
Walla Walla, Washington 98362-1836

Re: Endangered Species Act Section 7 Formal Consultation and Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Essential Fish Habitat Consultation for the End of the World Project, HUCs 1706030507 and 1706020906, Idaho County, Idaho

Dear Ms. Probert and Lt. Col. Dietz:

On July 25, 2019, NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) received a request from the Nez Perce Clearwater National Forest (NPCNF) to initiate formal consultation for the End of the World Project pursuant to section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.). The submittal included a final biological assessment (BA) that analyzed the effects of the proposed action on ESA-listed species and their designated critical habitat. The BA also included analysis of project effects on essential fish habitat pursuant to Section 305(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

Implementation of the proposed action will likely require the placement of fill material below the ordinary high water mark. As such, the NPCNF may be required to obtain section 404 Clean Water Act permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The NPCNF will serve as the lead federal action agency for this ESA consultation.

The information contained in the BA is sufficient to initiate consultation, and any additional information we require is otherwise accessible for our consideration and reference. During the consultation process, we may occasionally request the NPCNF provide clarification or additional information that we determine is necessary to complete our evaluation. We thank you in



advance for your collaboration. We have assigned NMFS number **WCRO-2019-02002** to this consultation. Please refer to this number in any future correspondence regarding this consultation.

Section 7 of the ESA prescribes 90 calendar days for interagency consultation, plus 45 days to prepare a biological opinion, unless we mutually agree to an extension. However, this proposed action went through the Streamlined Consultation Procedures, which establish a formal consultation time period of 60 calendar days. Considering this, we will strive to issue the final biological opinion by September 23, 2019. As a reminder, the ESA requires that prior to completion of this consultation, the action agencies not make any irreversible or irretrievable commitments of resources that would preclude any reasonable and prudent alternative to the proposed action that NMFS might require.

If you have any questions about this consultation, please contact Aurele LaMontagne, Northern Snake Branch Office, at (208) 378-5686 or at aurele.lamontagne@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,



hr Michael Tehan
Assistant Regional Administrator
Interior Columbia Basin Office

cc: J. Shinn – NPCNF
D. Bawdon – NPCNF
K. Smith – NPCNF
K. Fitzgerald – USFWS
M. Lopez – NPT